

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ:

# Newsela ELA supports key elements of the science of reading

Many districts are fully focusing on word recognition skills as they implement the science of reading into their strategic plans. Those skills are critical, but in order to become skilled readers, students must also be proficient in key language comprehension skills, like background knowledge and vocabulary. These skills are often missing from science of reading efforts.

Newsela ELA is designed based on learning science to foster the development of these critical knowledge and comprehension skills. Its vast library of content that supports knowledge building, frequent opportunities for formative assessment, and supportive scaffolds ensure teachers can meet every student's unique learning needs. It supports word recognition skills by easing the cognitive burden of decoding and supporting fluency growth with appropriately scaffolded texts. And it works, as proven by [multiple ESSA Tier II efficacy studies](#).

### Newsela ELA helps teachers support language comprehension development through:

- 15,000+ high-interest texts for knowledge building
- Tier II and Tier III vocabulary supports
- Formative assessments
- Teacher lesson suggestions for building skills and strategies

### Newsela ELA supports students' word recognition skills through:

- Adaptive leveling
- Read-aloud mode
- Shareable annotations

## Language Comprehension

**Background Knowledge**  
facts, concepts, etc.

**Vocabulary**  
breadth, precision, links, etc.

**Language Structures**  
syntax, semantics, etc.

**Verbal Reasoning**  
inference, metaphor, etc.

**Literacy Knowledge**  
print concepts, genres, etc.

## Word Recognition

**Phonological Awareness**  
syllables, phonemes, etc.

**Decoding**  
alphabetic principle, letter-sound correspondences

**Sight Recognition**  
of familiar words

Language comprehension skills refer to a student's ability to construct meaning from language. These skills are missing from the science of reading conversation, and they become increasingly important as students develop as readers.

INCREASINGLY STRATEGIC

**Skilled Reading**

Fluent coordination of language comprehension and word recognition to produce an understanding of what is read.

INCREASINGLY AUTOMATIC

Word recognition refers to the ability to quickly and efficiently recognize words, which starts by recognizing and sounding out unfamiliar words. Most science of reading plans implemented by districts focus here, as does the legislation and media narrative around the science of reading.



 newsela

To see the full research base for Newsela, scan this QR code

Reading Rope Adapted from Scarborough, 2001